WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An audio information reproducing method wherein audio information read from an audio information source is at first stored in a buffer memory, the stored audio information is then read out at a preset speed magnification, and reproduced upon receiving a reproducing speed conversion treatment, said method comprising:

sending a request for reading audio information to the audio information source in accordance with an amount of information accumulated in the buffer memory;

reading a predetermined amount of audio information from the buffer memory in accordance with the preset speed magnification, and

reproducing the predetermined amount of audio information after performing a reproducing speed conversion treatment on the audio information.

2. An audio information reproducing method wherein audio information read from an audio information source is at first stored in a buffer memory, the stored audio information is then read out at a preset speed magnification, and reproduced upon receiving a reproducing speed conversion treatment, said method comprising:

successively cutting out, in accordance with window functions, first portions of the audio information,

connecting together the first portions, and rendering the mutually connected first portions to serve as an output for converting a reproducing speed in a first channel;

successively cutting out, in accordance with window functions, second portions of the audio information, connecting together the second portions, and rendering the mutually connected second portions to serve as an output for converting a reproducing speed in a second channel; and

reproducing the audio information independently through the first and second channels.

3. An audio information reproducing method according to claim 2, wherein the first portions and the second portions of the audio information are variable in their extension/compression rates in accordance with the amplitudes of these portions.

4. An audio information reproducing apparatus comprising:

an audio information source;

a buffer memory for storing audio information read from the audio information source;

speed magnification setting means for setting a reproducing speed magnification for use in reading the audio information stored in the buffer memory; and

signal processing means capable of sending a request for reading audio information to the audio information source in

accordance with an amount of information accumulated in the buffer memory, reading a predetermined amount of audio information from the buffer memory in accordance with the preset speed magnification, and reproducing the predetermined amount of audio information after performing a reproducing speed conversion treatment on the audio information.

5. An audio information reproducing apparatus comprising:

an audio information source;

a buffer memory for storing audio information read from the audio information source in accordance with a speed magnification; and

signal processing means capable of i) cutting out, successively and in accordance with window functions, first portions of the audio information, connecting together the first portions, and rendering the mutually connected first portions to serve as an output for converting a reproducing speed in a first channel, ii) successively cutting out, in accordance with window functions, second portions of the audio information, connecting together the second portions, and rendering the mutually connected second portions to serve as an output for converting a reproducing speed in a second channel, and iii) reproducing the audio information independently through the first and second channels.